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"b1" On 29 May, the 10th ADS was declared to have an initial operational capability and was placed under the operational control of ADC. At that time there was only one missile on the island, but with the second missile in place on 10 June 1964, Program 437 reached a full operational capability status. It remained in that condition until 1 October 1970 when it was reduced from 24-hour to 30-day alert. On that date also,

"b1"  
personnel moved back to Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.<sup>168</sup>

After reduction of the alert status, "b1" practice deployments to Johnston Island were to be made semi-annually to: test the deployment plan, test Johnston Island operational procedures, and perform necessary maintenance on the ground equipment and two missiles left in place. The first return to the site was scheduled for April-June 1971; however, that deployment was delayed until November 1971.

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Once the deployment began on 5 November 1971, however, it went smoothly. The return

to the United States began on 2 December 1971 and the last aircraft involved in the redeployment departed Johnston Island on 4 December 1971. A similar test of the deployment plan scheduled for April 1972 was cancelled for lack of funds. Only a small group of maintenance people were airlifted to the island to perform required maintenance.<sup>169</sup>

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Deputy Secretary of Defense Packard told the Secretary of the Air Force on 4 May 1970, "the Air Force should phase down the system by the end of FY70 or as soon thereafter as possible."<sup>170</sup>

"b1"

Packard told the service secretaries that such a system,

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when and if developed, would be austere and that there would be no necessity for quick response or continuous alert.

Proceeding from that point, HQ ADC (Col Hugh D. Dow) suggested investigating the use of a "b1" ]

"b1" ] fired from an aircraft platform. From that suggestion and subsequent preliminary feasibility studies came Project SPIKE, designed to give the United States the capability to intercept and negate space systems prior to their first overflight of the continental United States. HQ USAF (B/G James O. Frankosky, AF-RDQ) and members of the Air Staff were briefed on the project by HQ ADC (Capt Joseph A. L. Soulia, DOV) on 14 April 1971, and General Frankosky recommended that HQ ADC and HQ AFSC jointly determine the relative priority it should have. B/G Kenneth R. Chapman, HQ AFCS, DCS/Plans, was briefed on 15 April 1971 and had Col Thomas A. McCreery, HQ AFSC (XRTD) direct SAMSO to include the project as a candidate system in the pending satellite defense system analysis. 172

— — — Prior to those briefings, Lt Gen Thomas K. McGehee, ADC commander, informed Lt Gen Otto J. Glasser (HQ USAF/RD) and Lt Gen Samuel C. Phillips (SAMSO commander) that his

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headquarters was studying the feasibility of using "an F-106 and a modified ARM (Anti-Radiation Missile) to perform satellite interception."<sup>173</sup> He explained to General Glasser that the ARM would be modified by "...adding a TRW kick-stage motor for second stage propulsion and "b1" "b1" terminal guidance."<sup>174</sup>

The F-106 MA-1 computer and data link capability would be used to receive and process target information!

"b1"

In his

message to the SAMSO commander, General McGehee endorsed the idea of combining the F-106 and the modified ARM, stating that it "has merit and [I] would be interested in SAMSO's findings."<sup>175</sup>

General Seth J. McKee, CINCNORAD, acknowledged Project SPIKE on 9 July 1971 and told General McGehee that he was "impressed by the potential utility and flexibility of such a system."<sup>176</sup> This endorsement was immediately forwarded to General John D. Ryan, USAF Chief of Staff.<sup>177</sup> But General John C. Meyer, USAF Vice Chief of Staff, informed

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General McGehee on 31 July 1971 that Project SPIKE was not included in the Aerospace Defense Program or in the Missile and Space Defense Concepts program elements. He added that "our plan is to proceed with the currently approved work under both program elements and to defer decision on SPIKE until the results of the SAMSO technical evaluation are available."<sup>178</sup>

By October 1971 it had been found that satellite  
negation, "b1"

"b1" was feasible and could be accomplished with minor modifications to existing systems. The estimated cost for six space-intercept demonstrations was \$30 million.<sup>179</sup> With feasibility established through AFSC technical evaluations, General Glasser told the ADC commander that "our tentative planning objective is to initiate a study program which could lead to development and demonstration of a prototype system."<sup>180</sup> The program would be conducted in two phases: the first to perform trade-off analyses that would lead to selection of a system approach, and the second to design the selected system prototype. Completion of the Air Force study was expected to coincide with the availability

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of results from the Army Advanced Ballistic Missile Defense Agency tests in the terminal homing vehicle critical technology areas. "If the results of the system trade-off

analyses show that

"b1"

"SPIKE," General Glasser told

General McGehee, "we can take advantage of the" "b1" and thus reduce Air Force technology expenditures prior to a decision on development and demonstration of the system."181

General McGehee did not support the approach advocated by General Glasser. On 17 March 1972, he advised General Phillips, SAMSO commander, that "...your feasibility study has convinced me that additional system trade-off studies will not answer the crucial questions involved in the SPIKE system{ "b1" }"182

For that reason, General McGehee supported SAMSO's original recommendations for immediate funding| "b1" | and demonstration system design. "I urge you to continue your efforts to gain appropriate funding and will lend my assistance to that end," he said.183 Thus, at the end of Fiscal Year 1972, HQ ADC waited for the next move that, hopefully, would advance Project SPIKE beyond the talking stage and provide the command with a capability to defend against incoming space weapons.

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